

Shasta LAFCO – Fire Protection Districts

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AREA BACKGROUND

Anderson is located in south Shasta County along the Sacramento River. It is situated just north of Cottonwood and ten miles south of Redding. It is characterized by the river valley landscape that rises in the west into rolling foothills. The land is former agricultural land that has been changed to residential, commercial and industrial uses since the coming of the railroad in 1872.

The area is sprinkled with large oak trees, including Valley Oaks, Blue Oaks, and Live Oaks. The Sacramento River, Anderson Creek, other streams and man-made canals and waterways traverse the area. These waterways have created delightful riparian corridors that support a wide variety of plants and animal communities. The climate of the area is characterized by the cool wet winters and hot dry summers of Northern California. The majority of rainfall is received between December and March.

AGENCY BACKGROUND

In 1887 a fire erupted on the East side of Anderson. With no established fire department, the flames quickly spread to nearby buildings. A citizen's bucket brigade managed to stop the fire, but not before the majority of the town was destroyed. On October 12, 1889, twelve of Anderson's early residents met for the purpose of establishing the first fire company known as Anderson Hose Company No. 1. The original fire department boundaries included the area between North, South, East and West Streets.

On July 10, 1909, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors appointed the first Board of Fire Commissioners for the town of Anderson and the name was changed to "Anderson Fire District." Buckets, ropes, ladders and a hose cart were the main firefighting equipment until the District purchased a 1924 Dodge chemical truck. In 1941, the District purchased a 1941 Ford Van Pelt known as Engine 1 at the beginning of World War II. After the war had ended, the District then purchased a 1946 Van Pelt known as Engine 2. The District still stores both of those engines in the original station at East Center and Ferry Road and uses them for parades.

In 1959 the District moved into its present quarters next door to City Hall at 1925 Howard Street. The building was shared with the County until 1999 when the District purchased the county's share of the building and remodeled the space.

The Anderson Fire Protection District provides comprehensive fire and emergency response services to the City of Anderson and to unincorporated areas within the District. The District encompasses an area approximately 7 ½ square miles. The Mission Statement of the Anderson Fire Protection District is "to provide the highest level of fire protection service and basic emergency medical and rescue service as possible, to all of the community citizens and visitors. These services include extinguishment of hostile fires, protection from the threat of fires, assisting the public and other emergency responding agencies in medical emergencies, hazardous material release, and disasters through incident mitigation, planning, prevention, education and community service."

The District operates in cooperation with other fire agencies in the region under automatic aid agreements to provide services to Shasta County residents and visitors. Dispatching for the District is provided through the E-911 system by Shas-com and the SCFD/CDF Emergency Command Center in Redding.

INFRASTRUCTURE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Approximately 12,600 people reside within the boundaries of the District, according to City of Anderson sources. Service needs are currently forecast as growth and development occurs. The District is concerned that the increased service demand caused by new and accelerated growth will exceed the ability of the District to provide services over time. They adopted an Impact Fee in 2003 to attempt to mitigate these potential service delivery issues. Currently, there are no variances in service levels throughout the District, other than response times which obviously vary due to location.

Due to the size of the area served and the distance to service areas, the current District headquarters are not adequate to meet the needs of the District. There is a need for a fire station on the east side of the District. The District purchased property in the 1960's at the corners of North and Ravenwood. In 2002 the District started planning the construction of a station at that location. As the District began the preliminary design for a new fire station on the District owned property; the District soon realized that the lot was not wide enough to construct the facility as originally planned. The District then purchased an additional 60 feet from the adjacent property owner making the new lot 160 feet by 300 feet. It is estimated that the construction costs could reach as much as \$1.6 million. The District adopted impact fees in 2003 and has placed in excess of \$500,000 in a capital improvement fund to eventually build this facility. Also there are plans to buy a new ladder truck for the District that will be housed in the new facility. The District has earmarked in excess of \$80,000 for this project

Currently the District has one fire station located at 1925 Howard Street. This station houses four type 1 engines, two type 3 engines, one type 1 water tender, breathing support, a Decon Hazmat Trailer and three utility command vehicles. All of the units are fully equipped with full standard compliment equipment; such as nozzles, hoses and adapters.

Fire protection and medical apparatus and equipment are located at the fire station. A complete inventory of existing apparatus and equipment and valuation is included in the appendices of this document. Front line equipment is monitored on a daily schedule and the off line equipment, the second out units, are monitored on a weekly schedule.

The Anderson Fire Protection District has responded to approximately 2151 calls in 2008. Of those calls, 1553 were medical calls, 139 were structure or vegetation fires, 54 false alarms, 72 were mutual aid and 138 calls were automatic aid. The District currently is able to respond to any area of the District in a timely manner and is able to arrive either at the same time or prior to other neighboring agencies. The District has a working relationship and mutual aid agreement with Cottonwood Fire Protection District. A copy of this agreement is included in the appendices of this document. The District currently responds to all fires within the Cottonwood Fire Protection District

based on an automatic aid agreement; including the I-5 corridor. The Anderson Fire Protection District is usually able to respond to the southbound side of I-5 prior to the Cottonwood Fire Protection District. The Cottonwood Fire Protection District is usually able to respond to the North bound side of I-5 prior to the Anderson Fire Protection District. Having a good working relationship with Cottonwood Fire Protection District ensures that an undue response time does not occur with incidents on the I-5 corridor. The District currently has an average response time of approximately 3-5 minutes from receipt of an alarm at the station.

Throughout a majority of the City of Anderson there is a grid water line system that includes fire hydrants spaced accordingly. This system is maintained by the City. In the Verde Vale area there is an older private water system with fire hydrants; this system is referred to as the Verde Vale Water District. A small portion of the District is outside the City limits and there is currently no water system in those areas.

Another standard used for planning fire facilities is a rating provided by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). The insurance industry uses ISO ratings to assist in determining insurance premiums for building owners. The ISO rating is based on travel distance (not travel time) to the nearest fire station, and other factors such as availability of water supply for fire protection. Currently the District has an ISO rating class of 5 within the City limits, 7 in Verde Val and an 8 in the County area.

Anderson Fire Protection District	5/8
Burney Fire Protection District	5/9
Castella Fire Protection District	9/10
Shasta Lake Fire Protection District	4/8
Cottonwood Fire Protection District	7
Fall River Mills Fire Protection District	6
Happy Valley Fire Protection District	6
McArthur Fire Protection District	6/7
Millville Fire Protection District	6/8

Administration, Management and Operations

For the purposes of preparing a Municipal Services Review, information with respect to administrative, management and operational functions including employee categories and internal organization, agency policies, rules and regulations are evaluated with respect to efficiencies and/or cost avoidance opportunities.

The Anderson Fire Protection District Board of Directors operates as the administrative and financial governing body of the District. The Fire Chief serves as the Manager and Chief Administrator of the Fire District. The Fire Chief also oversees fiscal operations, purchasing, community relations and human resources. The Deputy Chief/Training Officer assumes all duties of the Fire Chief in the Fire Chief's absence and works closely with him or her in administrative, financial, personnel and interagency relationship functions.

At this time the Anderson Fire Protection District has six paid full-time employees. Full-time positions include one Fire Chief, one Battalion Chief, three Fire Captains and one administrative secretary. The District has one part time secretary position. The District is supported by fifteen to twenty active volunteer firefighters. Annual audits, attorney needs and impact fee studies are contracted out to save the costs that would otherwise be associated with staff positions for those services. The District has recently promoted a Fire Chief from an in-house position. This re-shifting of duties will allow the District to hire three additional firefighters to provide staffing twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. The two Chief Officers will also share in this duty, thereby having a duty officer on at all times. Current plans are to have three Firefighters hired by February 1, 2010.

The main Fire Station is manned 24 hours a day seven days a week by one of the four Fire Captains. The Deputy Chief and the Fire Chief support the Fire Captains by working a standard eight hour work day, five days a week. The District hires part-time firefighters during fire season; which is usually from mid June through October.

Training for fire district personnel and volunteers consists of ethics (qualified employees), sexual harassment, SIDS, HAZ-MAT, extrication, medical first aid, CPR, as well as courses and programs for firefighting in structure, wild-land & automobiles. Each of the Fire Captains has a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) and each of the volunteers is provided with the by-laws set in place by the District. The District adopted a S.O.P. manual (Standard Operational Procedure) that all personnel and volunteers adhere to. Volunteer firefighter requirements include attendance at trainings, meetings, medical certification and a Class B driver's license to drive and operate District apparatus.

The District is a member of the Shasta County Fire Chiefs Association, Shasta County Fire Prevention Association, Shasta County Training Officers Association, Shasta Arson Task Force Team and the SCMAART (Haz-Mat) Team.

FISCAL

The Anderson Fire Protection District budget for the fiscal year 2009-2010 was \$2,093,897 (see attached). The District's operating budget is included in the appendices. The District receives most of its revenue from property taxes, other governmental agencies and charges for current services, including Impact Fees.

The District adopted an Impact Fee in 2003. This Impact Fee is collected on all development within the District. Projected fees for the 2008-09 Fiscal Year are \$13,791. Revenues will provide funding for the construction of and equipment for the new fire station, which is projected to be more than \$1.6 million.

The District is currently working with the City of Anderson on a joint community facilities agreement in connection with the formation of a community facilities district (Vineyards At Anderson). This is an area where the Anderson Fire Protection District borders Cottonwood Fire Protection District at the end of Pleasant Hills Drive. See attachment.

The Board of Directors operates as a financial committee and approves all expenditures and financial policies. All District monies are invested by the Shasta County Treasurer. The annual budget is drafted by the Fire Chief and recommendations are made to the Board for approval. In addition, monthly financial statements are presented to the Board for review, comment and approval.

The District currently has no policy for replacement of infrastructure. While there is no policy set in place, the District did spend \$40,941 from the general fund during the 2008-2009 fiscal year to replace the entire roof as well as replace older wooden bay doors with new aluminum doors. The District has budgeted \$35,000 from the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget to assist the City with replacing the rear parking lot, as well as standard maintenance of the station.

Capital equipment needs, such as new fire engines, rescue equipment, etc., are typically paid from the operating budget. Personnel, training, operating and maintenance needs are also paid out of the operating budget. Due to the multitude of demands on the operating budget, sufficient revenue to purchase all needed capital equipment and facilities has been limited.

GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors operates as the governing body for the Anderson Fire Protection District. The Board consists of five persons. In 2007 the people of Anderson Fire Protect District voted that all board members are to be elected by the people of Anderson Fire Protection District. On November 3, 2009 the people of the District will vote for five board members and those individuals elected will take their seat at a special board meeting that will be held on December 4, 2009. Prior to this change in 2007, the Board consisted of five persons, four appointed by the City of Anderson and one appointed by the County of Shasta. The term of office is a four-year term and are staggered to promote continuity. Board members are required to live within the District boundaries and if a Board members moves from his or her permanent residence, his or her seat shall automatically become vacant upon the occurrence thereof. Bylaws at this time do not provide compensation to be paid to the Board members for meeting attendance.

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm at the District Training Room (1925 Howard Street, Anderson). Agendas for board meetings are posted and available to the public 72 hours in advance. No public meetings have been cancelled in the last three years. Nor have there been any allegations of Brown Act violations in that time period.

REGIONAL CONTEXT/IMPACTS

At this time there is no district-level consideration of combining fire protection districts. Ongoing discussion regarding reorganization of fire service provision and the impacts of such a decision will continue over the coming months and possibly years.

Historically (since the late 1970's), the boundaries and spheres of the City of Anderson and the Anderson Fire Protection District have been kept as fairly similar with each other. For example, if the City of Anderson proposes an annexation, historically the Fire District has proposed a concurrent change to its boundaries. The District at times appears to be functioning more as a City Department than as an Independent Special District, mainly through the implication of concurrent boundary modifications and as the City Council appoints the majority of the District Board. The City of Anderson and the Anderson Fire Protection District recently studied the potential of a consolidation and at this time, have not opted to progress with that as an option. The consolidation study has been placed as an attachment to this Municipal Service Review.